

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 05213 01 OF 02 231032Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02 PC-01
SY-05 IO-13 SCS-06 HA-05 OC-06 /134 W
-----086250 231101Z /10

O 230947Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9919
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAPTEOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1568
US MISSION NATO IMMEDIATE 160
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC
USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL/ECJ-2 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 5213

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 05213 01 OF 02 231032Z

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CC
SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 9 (MAY 23, 1977)

1. STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. NO CHANGE

2. MILITARY SITUATION.

A. BELGIAN BITTERNESS OVER THE FRENCH ROLE IN KOLWEZI MAY BE A FACTOR IN THE CHARGES MADE BY TWO BELGIAN OFFICERS THAT FRENCH PARAS KILLED SIX EUROPEANS DURING THEIR RECAPTURE OF THE CITY. FIVE RHODESIANS AND ONE BELGIAN WERE REPORTEDLY SHOT WHEN THEY FAILED TO PRODUCE IDENTIFICATION PAPERS. THE BELGIAN FORCES, HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE EVACUATION OF EUROPEANS FROM KOLWEZI, BEGAN RETURNING TO KAMINA AT 1400Z MAY 22. THEIR DEPARTURE FROM KAMINA FOR BRUSSELS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 1400Z MAY 23. ONE BELGIAN BATTALION IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR THE TIME BEING.

B. THE GOZ IS NOW CONCERNED THAT FLNC TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR TSHIKAPA (0624S/2047E) MAY FORESHADOW AN OFFENSIVE THERE.

3. TROOP DEPLOYMENT.

A. HOSTILE FORCES. INITIAL REPORTS FROM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA THAT THE FLNC CONVOY HAD BEEN SPOTTED BY ZAMBIANS NEAR SAKELI, ZAMBIA, WERE NOT SUBSTANTIATED WHEN A EUROPEAN MISSIONARY INSPECTED THE ROAD REBEL TRUCKS HAD SUPPOSEDLY USED.

B. FRIENDLY FORCES. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS IN LUBUMBASHI THAT THE GOZ HAS ALREADY EXECUTED THE ENTIRE FAZ GENERAL STAFF BASED IN KOLWEZI FOR THEIR COMPLICITY IN THE FLNC CAPTURE OF THAT CITY. THE ATROCITIES ATTRIBUTED TO THE FLNC ARE VIEWED BY MANY ZAIRIANS IN SHABA AND KINSHASA AS MORE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 05213 01 OF 02 231032Z

LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF FAZ.

A SMALL NUMBER OF MOROCCAN TROOPS HAS ARRIVED IN KINSHASA. THEIR MISSION IS AS YET UNCLEAR.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 05213 02 OF 02 231058Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02

PC-01 SY-05 SCS-06 HA-05 OC-06 /134 W

-----086442 231100Z /10

O 230947Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9920
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIESR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1569
US MISSION NATO IMMEDIATE 161
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ-2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC
USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL/ECJ-2 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 5213

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 05213 02 OF 02 231058Z

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

4. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION.

A. ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN KINSHASA IS CALM ON THE SURFACE, SOME INCREASED TENSION IS EVIDENT AMONG THE EUROPEANS AND ZAIRIAN POPULATIONS. THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED MAY 22, ZAIRIAN GENDARMES CONDUCTED SEARCHES OF EXPATRIATE AND ZAIRIAN APARTMENTS THAT MORNING. THE POLICE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO LOOK FOR WEAPONS, PEOPLE WITHOUT REGULAR PAPERS AND LUNDA TRIBESMEN. THEY APPARENTLY SEARCHED BOTH ZAIRIANS AND EXPATRIATES INDISCRIMINATELY. OUR LOCAL LIAISON WITH THE GENDARMERIE WAS TOLD BY KINSHASA'S POLICE CIEF THAT THESE SEARCHES OF APARTMENTS IN GOMBE ZONE (A NEIGHBORHOOD INHABITED PRIMARILY BY EUROPEANS AND WEALTHY ZAIRIANS) WERE ORDERED BY THE URBAN COMMISSIONER (MAY) OF KINSHASA. HE HAD NO EXPLANATION WHY THE SEARCHES HAD BEEN ORDERED OR WHY THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO APARTMENTS.

B. THE SITUATION IN THE POORER SECTIONS OF KINSHASA (THE CITE) IS UNEASY. REPORTS THAT THE POLICE ARE SEEKING OUT LUNDA TRIBESMEN, ANGOLANS AND WEAPONS HAVE WIDE CURRENCY. IMPRESSION INTO THE ARMY APPEARS TO BE UNDERWAY.

C. THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF STRONG ANTI-FRENCH SENTIMENT AMONG SOME ELEMENTS OF THE ZAIRIAN COMMUNITY. THIS FEELING STEMS FROM THE CONCLUSION DRAWN BY MANY ZAIRIANS THAT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN KOLWEZI WAS SOLELY AIMED AT PROTECTING MOBUTU'S REGIME. RUMORS HAVE IT THAT MOBUTU HAS PROMISED TO REPLACE BELGIAN WITH FRENCH INTERESTS IN ZAIRE'S COPPER INDUSTRY. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE US AND BELGIUM DO NOT SEEM TO BE NEGATIVE AT THIS POINT;

THE BELGIAN AND AMERICAN ROLES IN THE INTERVENTION ARE SEEN AS ESSENTIALLY HUMANITARIAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE BELGIANS ARE SAID
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 05213 02 OF 02 231058Z

TO HAVE ORIGINALLY WANTED TO: (A) NEGOTIATE WITH THE KATANGANS, OR (B)

SEND IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO EFFECT THE EVACUATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE BELGIAN PRESENCE IN KOLWEZI IS EXPECTED TO BE A SHORT ONE. AS FOR THE U.S., THE EVACUATION OF CIS PERSONNEL EARLY IN THE WEEK (WHICH IS WIDELY KNOWN IN KINSHASA) "PROVES" THAT THE AMERICANS WISHED ONLY TO GET THEIR PEOPLE OUT SAFELY.

D. OVERALL, KINSHASA SEEMS TO BE SUFFERING FROM A SECOND YEAR OF FRUSTRATED HOPES AS MOBUTU CLINGS TO POWER. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A SENSE OF DREADFUL EXPECTATION IN THE AIR THAT THE EVENTS WHICH BEGAN IN KOLWEZI HAVE YET TO SEE THEIR END.

5. PRESS GUIDANCE. NO CHANGE.

6. DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE -- MONDAY MAY 22, P.M.

A. THE DOMESTIC PRESS CONTINUES TO USE REPORTS FROM FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, IN PLACE OF ITS OWN CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS. IN SOME

CASES THIS APPEARS TO BE BECAUSE THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WERE THE FIRST ALLOWED INTO KOLWEZI, IN OTHER CASES TO LEND CREDENCE AND PRESTIGE TO THE REPORTING.

B. THE CARNAGE THAT HAS BEEN FOUND IN KOLWEZI IS BEING HEAVILY REPORTED, ALONG WITH EXTENSIVE CONDEMNATION, SOMEWHAT SHORT ON CORROBORATING EVIDENCE, OF ALGERIAN, LIBYAN, CUBAN AND SOVIET INTERVENTION. TELEVISION AND RADIO INTERVIEWS OF DEPARTING EVACUEES CONSUME AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF BROADCAST TIME, AND ARE NOT IN THE LEAST BIT SHORT ON GRUESOME DETAILS.

C. TWO NOTEWORTHY INCLUSIONS IN SUNDAY'S AND MONDAY'S REPORTING WERE: A REPORT THAT GECAMINES REPRESENTATIVE RENARD, UNLIKE HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, IS SURE THAT WERE CUBANS IN KOLWEZI -- HE SAW THEM WITH HIS OWN EYES. SECONDLY, THE STUMBLING BLOCK THAT GOZ ARREARAGES PRESENTED TO SPEED-UP FMS DELIVERIES WERE

ALSO REPORTED IN THE WRITTEN PRESS (KINSHASA 5204).

D. BOTH ELIMA AND SALONGO MAY 23 CONTINUES THEIR
ATTACKS ON BELGIAN FON MINISTER SIMONET. ELIMA MAY 23
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KINSHA 05213 02 OF 02 231058Z

HEADLINES THAT "ALL CONTACTS OF ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATS
WITH SIMONET ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE."
ARTICLES QUESTION WHETHER SIMONET'S STATESMENTS REPRESENT
ACCURATELY POLICY OF KING AND PRIME MINISTER.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, INVASIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA05213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-0940
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780530/aaaaayya.tel
Line Count: 238
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa9a0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2607939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 9 (MAY 23, 1977)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa9a0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014